

## Message Text

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61  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 AF-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 /088 W  
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R 121616Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2089  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PO, AG  
SUBJ: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF STATE

REF: LISBON 1276

1. PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF STATE ERNESTO MELO ANTUNES  
WAS IN ALGIERS ON TWO DAY VISIT MARCH 10-11. ACCORDING  
MOHAMED ABERKANE, DIRECTOR NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN  
EUROPE AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, DISCUSSIONS WITH  
ANTUNES CENTERED ON "COOPERATION". WHEN ASKED TO DEFINE  
TERM COOPERATION ABERKANE SAID IT MEANT NUMBER OF THINGS,  
INCLUDING RATE OF PORTUGAL'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
PORTUGAL'S PLACE IN MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTH AFRICAN  
CONTEXT.

2. BEFORE DEPARTURE ANTUNES GAVE INTERVIEW TO  
ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE IN WHICH HE REFUSED COMMENT ON  
YESTERDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT AND SPOKE OF POSITIVE RESULTS  
OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND OF INTERESTS  
WHICH LINKED THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TWO PEOPLE. IN  
RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT CURRENT RELATIONS  
BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND NATO AND THE STATUS OF THE AZORES  
BASES, HE REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: /OUR RELATIONS WITH

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NATO ARE DEVELOPING WITH THE RESPECT FOR THE TREATIES

ESTABLISHED BEFORE APRIL 25, 1974. THE PROGRAM OF  
THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT INDICATES CLEARLY THAT  
PREVIOUS TREATIES WITH OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL  
BE RESPECTED. NEVERTHELESS, I SHOULD SAY THAT THE  
PROFOUND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION WHICH PORTUGAL IS  
UNDERGOING HAS A CLEAR DIRECTION--A DIRECTION OF  
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, WHICH INCLUDES A POLICY ON NON-  
ALIGNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE GREAT POWERS. WE ARE A  
SMALL COUNTRY WHICH CANNOT BE INTERESTED BY A POLICY  
OF BLOCS. FURTHERMORE, POLITICAL REALISM OBLIGES US TO  
HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, GIVEN  
OUR GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AND OUR ECONOMY. WITH REGARD  
TO THE AZORES BASE WE THINK THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE PLACED  
AT THE SERVICE OF ANY INTEREST NOT INCLUDED IN THE  
ATLANTIC PACT. WE MUST CONTROL OUR MATERIAL RESOURCES  
AND OUR TERRITORY AS WE UNDERSTAND IT. THE AZORES BASE  
CANNOT BE USED FOR ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THE NEW SPIRIT  
OF PORTUGAL'S FOREIGN POLICY." PARKER

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NNN

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